DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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LATE NEWS

FASCIST ATTACK FAILS

A big-scale fascist attack upon the German Democratic Republic has failed.

Disturbances in East Berlin and in some parts of the Republic, organised by fascist agents of foreign powers and openly supported by the official American radio station in West Berlin, have collapsed, since the overwhelming majority of the population stood by the Government.

Here is a preliminary picture of the situation as we go to press:

West Berlin agents caused a series of disturbances in various parts of East Berlin on June 16th and 17th in an attempt to hinder negotiations for Four-Power peace talks.

The disturbances started when building workers, with considerable justification, protested against the bureaucratic imposition of new working norms.

Agitators from West Berlin quickly exploited the position, and tried to convert the builder's meeting into a political demonstration.

A Government announcement condemning the administrative imposition of norm increases quickly removed the cause for the builders' complaints.

Fascist rowdies and agents, who had flooded into East Berlin in the meantime by every road, took advantage ofthe situation to try to provoke incidents, and there were a number of clashes.

Finally, after People's Police and Soviet soldiers had been repeatedly been attacked by fascist rowdies, and after a number of cases of arson and looting, the Soviet Commandant of Berlin placed the East Sector of the city declared a state of emergency at 1 p. m. on June 17th.

An official announcement by the Government of the German Democratic Republic in the early morning of June 18th stated:

"Mercenary elements, agents of foreign states and their German big business allies have attempted to interfere with the new measures being taken by the Government of the German Democratic Republic to improve the standard of living of the population.

"It has been ascertained that the work stoppages in a number of factories yesterday, and the provocative rioting of groups of fascist agents in the steets of the Democratic Sector of Berlin, were carried out in accordance with a central plan drawn up in West Berlin.

"The excesses collapsed completely, since they met with the opposition of the greater part of the population, and the organs of law and order.

(cont. on p. 2)

DEEDS FOR GERMAN UNITY

New Decisions Aid Peace

The East German Government has taken a series of important concrete steps to correct mistakes in past policy, and to make it easier for the two halves of partitioned Germany to come together again.

The measures, decided upon by the Cabinet of the German Democratic Republic at meeting on June 11th include:

Easing of ration card restrictions for the middle class.

Full rights and restoration of confiscated property to all "refugees" who return from West Germany.

Ending of harsh measures against peasant proprietors for tax arrears and failure to meet crop quotas, and help for individual peasants.

Credits for small factories and businesses, thus providing more mass consumption goods.

Revision of the heavy industrial programme which was being pressed ahead too fast.

Review of all arrests and prison sentences.

(Text of Cabinet Communique on page 3.)

In addition the Cabinet approved an important agreement on the relations between the Government and the Evangelical Church which had been concluded one day earlier.

(Full text of Church Agreement on page 4.)

The Cabinet decisions followed a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Socialist Unity Party on June 9th, at which it was decided to recommend these and a number of other measures. The communique on the meeting of the Political Bureau stated:

"In its decisions the Political Bureau has in view the great goal of the achievement of the unity of Germany, a goal which demands from both sides deeds which really make easier the approach to each other of the two parts of Germany."

(cont. from p. 1)

FASCIST ATTACK FAILS

"Normal work will be resumed in the factories. Order will be preserved in the streets. No rioting by provocateurs and criminal elements will be tolerated.

"The shameful attempts of the foreign agents to interfere with the Government's measures have failed. The attempt to sow confusion in order to create new obstacles to the achievement of German unity has failed.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic will take all necessary measures to punish severely those guilty of causing the disturbances. The provocateurs can not expect lenience."

The first list of arrested rioters showed that they were almost all in their teens, and that they came from West Berlin, where they had been trained by fascist groups such as the „Federation of German Youth" and the so-called "Fighting Group against Inhumanity".

Observers noted that almost all the serious incidents occurred within a few hundred yards of the West Berlin sector border.

The „Neues Deutschland", central organ of the Socialist Unity Party, stated in a leading article on June 18th:

"All those people who are still confused and have not realised the true nature of the provocation should consider this: The Government of the German Democratic Republic has taken measures which the gentlemen in the West German Government always — allegedly — supported. The Government made it easier to get inter-zonal passes, gave support to private industry and private trade, restored farms to peasants who had fled. And at just this moment the fascist agencies sent hundreds and thousands of provocateurs, charged with hindering the work of the Government of the German Democratic Republic at any price.

"They exploited the easing of regulations on traffic between East and West Berlin, a relaxation greeted by hundreds of thousands of peaceful citizens, in order to organise a mass invasion of mercenaries.

"The provocation has collapsed, since the peace forces will not allow the peoples to be dragged along the path of war. The western agents were able to confuse parts of the population for some hours, but the great majority opposed the provocateurs.

"This great majority had the correct feeling that the rioting was the work of the dark forces which had plunged the German people into catastrophe twice in the past, and which want to try to plunge the people into catastrophe once again."

Footnote: The editor of GERMAN REPORT watched a demonstration of alleged "East Berlin workers". He was interested, but not surprised, to see that one of the "workers" was Mr Tom Reedy, Chief Correspondent of the American Associated Press in West Berlin.

Rowdies who staged disturbances were often led by young men wearing black-dyed American or British battledress, the uniform which is issued to the semi-military German formations attached to the Western armies in West Berlin.

Peasant Returns

First peasant to return to East Germany after the announcement of the new policy was Heinz Junghaehnel of Hohenwussen.

"The news of the new regulations spread like wild-fire through the refugee camp in West Berlin where I was quartered" Herr Junghaehnel said. "Many of my colleagues are only waiting until they can be sure that the news is official.

"I want to go back to my farm. I took it over in a very run-down condition in 1939, and I have put a lot of hard work into it."

5500 Amnestied

4029 prisoners were released from prisons in East Germany in the two days following the Government decision to review sentences passed on persons guilty of crimes against the property of the people. 1500 more were expected to be released in the next few days, it wasofficially stated.

Those released had either been sentenced to terms of between one and three years imprisonment. or were awaiting trial.

CORRECTING MISTAKES

Here are some points from a commentary on the new decisions, printed on June 13th in "Neues Deutschland", the central newspaper of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany:

"What were the reasons which caused the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party to take such far-reaching decisions?

"The Political Bureau based itself upon the fact that in the past a series of mistakes had been made by the Socialist Unity Party, and by the Government of the German Democratic Republic. These mistakes had had a detrimental effect upon the standard of living of the population.

"The measures proposed by the Political Bureau have been dictated by the determination to correct the mistakes which have been made, and to improve the standard of living of the workers, peasants, intellectuals, and craftsmen and other sections of the middle class.

London Paper Greets Move

"The proposals made by the Socialist Unity Party of Germany have the aim of making easier the achievement of a peaceful and united Germany," the London "Daily Worker" commented on June 12th.

"This explains the fear and anger of some West German and American politicians. But it is also the reason why the vast majority of people have warmly welcomed the new steps.

"Because it is the very heart of their war policy, the Americans and their European supporters will not give up their plan to keep Germany divided unless forced to do so by the overwhelming pressure of public opinion.

"Britain is decisive. The Labour Party voted against the Bonn Treaties when they came before Parliament last year.

"Now is the time to follow this up by insisting that Four Power negotiations begin at once to prevent Germany from ever again being the source of war in Europe."

Government Communique on Changes

Here is the text of the communique issued after the important meeting of the Cabinet of the German Democratic Republic on June 11th 1953:

The Cabinet decided upon a series of measures designed to correct the mistakes made by the Government and the governmental administrative services in various fields. The measures now decided upon by the Cabinet will provide for the improvement of the standard of living of the workers and intellectuals, together with the peasants, craftsmen and other sections of the middle class.

Explaining the necessary orders and resolutions, the Prime Minister (Otto Grotewohl) based himself upon the various measures taken in the past which had proved to be erroneous. The Prime Minister traced the various mistakes, such as those affecting the distribution of ration cards, the crop collection measures, and the tax collection methods, to the fact that considerable sums in the state budget had been used for purposes not forseen in the Five Year Plan.

In addition, some of the tasks forseen for the next year of the Plan were included in Plan-year 1953; and some parts of the Five Year Plan, in order to favour the development of heavy industry, were transferred too early from 1955 to the years 1952 and 1953.

Because of this, and because of deficits in last year's harvest and deficits in crop collections, difficult situation arose. The Government attempted to overcome the difficulties through a series of measures which had proved in practice to be wrong. "The immediate correction of the regulations concerned" the Prime Minister stated, "will lead to an improvement in the standard of living of the population, and will strengthen and cement the links between the population and the Government. Such a policy on the part of our Government is in accordance with the basic interests of bringing about a reconciliation and understanding between all German patriots in the fight for the unity of Germany, and for peace."

In the near future changes will be made in the Five Year Plan leading to a further improvement of the standard of living.

The Cabinet made the following decisions:

The limitations on the issue of ration cards are abolished. From July 1st 1953 all inhabitants of the German Democratic Republic and the Democratic Sector of Berlin will receive ration cards, as formerly.

The next paragraph deals with a reduction in the price of sweets, jams, etc., thus bringing the price level back to that of April 19th 1953, when goods made of sugar were increased in price. The price cut took effect on June 15th. The communique continues:

In the entire economy, forcible measures for the collection of overdue taxes and social security contributions dating from economic activity in the period up to the end of the year 1950 are to be suspended. This applies to small, middle and big peasants, craftsmen, retail and wholesale traders, building firms and transport enterprises.

Craftsmen, retail and wholesale traders and private industrial, building and transport enterprises will have their concerns returned to them on application. Short-term credits will be granted.

The next paragraph deals with the reintroduction of cheap return fares on the railways, which had been withdrawn for certain categories of passenger on April 1st 1953. The communique continues:

Harshnesses in the social security system and social help will be done away with, and the benefits will be restored to their previous level.

Agricultural enterprises, whose owners were refused the right to run them under a regulation issued on February 19th 1953, will be returned.

Persons who had fled the Republic, who now return to the territory of the German Democratic Republic and the Democratic Sector of Berlin, will receive their property back. The returnees will be reinstated in their full civil rights, and will take their place in economic and social life in accordance with their qualifications.

Peasants who encountered difficulties in carrying on their activity and thus left their holdings and fled the Republic, may return to their holdings. When, in exceptional cases, it is impossible to return their agricultural holding, they will be granted full compensation.

The Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General must immediately review all arrests, prosecutions and sentences in order to eliminate any possible harshnesses.

The Cabinet noted with approval the agreement reached by the Prime Minister with the representatives of the church.

"DO NOTHING TO PREJUDICE UNITY" — GROTEWOHL

At this critical moment, nothing must be done which might prejudice the chances of achieving German unity, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl told a Berlin audience on June 12th.

The Prime Minister was addressing 2000 of the best teachers from all parts of the German Democratic Republic, assembled to celebrate "Teachers' Day".

"The main problem of the 'living-together' of Germany is becoming more and more urgent day by day", Otto Grotewohl stated.

"The unity of Germany is the decisive question confronting us today. If the people of Germany 'live away' from each other further in the future, this means, after the ratification of the Bonn and Paris war treaties, a hostile development of Germans directed against each other.

"The collection of a hostile explosive mass between the Germans means, however, help for the Bonn Treaty war politicians, and leads to the development of a dangerous psychological war-readiness among the Germans. This must not be allowed to happen.

"The German Democratic Republic is now in a position to prove that it is our fixed and solemn determination to cooperate in bringing about an understanding between the Germans.

"There are, of course, still great obstacles to bringing the Germans together round one conference table. One of the greatest obstacles is Adenauer.

"At this moment in the development of the understanding between Germans, nothing must be done which would provide grist for the mills of our opponents.

"We would not dream of helping Herr Adenauer in this respect. Therefore, in the interests of all-German understanding, and the readiness of the people in East and in West Germany, we are ready to refrain from all measures which could prejudice understanding."

CHURCH-STATE AGREEMENT

Official Communique on Important Meeting

In accordance with the wish expressed by the Conference of Evangelical Provincial Churches in the German Democratic Republic, a meeting called by Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl was held on June 10th 1953 by representatives of the Cabinet and representatives of the Evangelical Church.

The church was represented by Bishop Dibelius, Chairman of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany; Bishop Mitzenheim, Thuringia; Bishop Mueller, Magdeburg; Bishop Beste, Mecklenburg; Bishop Hahn, Dresden; Bishop von Scheven, Greifswald; Church Elder Schroeter, Dessau-Anhalt; Church Elder Fraenkel, Goerlitz; Superintendent General Krumacher, Berlin; and Dean Grueber, plenipotentiary of the Evangelical Church to the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

The Cabinet was represented by Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl; Deputy Prime Minister Otto Nuschke; Minister Paul Wandel, Chief of the Coordinating Office for Education, Science and Art; Wilhelm Zaisser, Minister for State Security; and Herr Groetschel, the representative of the State Secretariat for Internal Affairs.

The subject under discussion was an investigation of the relations between state and church in the German Democratic Republic. Far-reaching agreement on the restoration of normal relations between the state and the church was reached in the course of discussions held in a spirit of mutual understanding.

The unanimous agreement that the most urgent tasks facing all Germans are the attainment of the unity of our homeland and the drawing-up of a peace treaty, made it possible to overcome the differences which stand in opposition to such a development.

In this spirit the representatives of the state declared their readiness to guarantee the church its internal life in accordance with the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic.

The representatives of the church, for their part, declared that they would refrain from unconstitutional interference and influence on economic and political life. On the basis of this agreement the following decisions were taken:

1. No further measures are to be taken against the so-called "Young Congregation" and other church organisations. The Government Office for Youth Questions is charged with clarifying all questions of dispute connected with the "Young Congregation" in cooperation with representatives of the church, the "Young Congregation" and the Free German Youth.

2. All pupils removed from the secondary schools in connection with the examination of the pupils and the discussions on the activities of the "Young Congregation" are allowed forthwith to resume their studies. They must be given the opportunity of making up for examinations which they have missed. The Ministry for Education must immediately investigate and take decisions in the cases of the teachers who were dismissed in the same connection.

3. All students whose names were struck from the register in connection with their membership of the Evangelical Student Congregation or other student congregations must be investigated immediately by the State Secretariat for University Affairs and a decision must be taken by June 20th 1953.

4. The Ministry of Education is charged with working out immediately directives for the holding of religious instruction in school buildings. The limitations on the holding of religious instruction in school buildings, which have been in effect since January 1st 1953 are to be examined and removed.

5. Confiscated installations and institutions of a church character are to be returned to the previous administrations. This ruling applies to Pfeiffer's Endowment in Magdeburg, the Neinstedt Installations, and the Seyda Home for the Aged. Mansfeld Castle, however, remains in the administration of the Mansfeld Combine, and will serve as house of culture and recreation home for the miners of the Combine.

6. The State Secretariat for Internal Affairs will make the decision on the distribution of holiday accomodation in the church homes on the Baltic coast.

7. The sentences passed by the courts are to be examined, and unjust severities are to be removed.

8. The order on the registration of gatherings, issued on March 29th 1951 is to be examined and difficulties removed.

9. The state subsidies for the church will be paid in accordance with the agreed rules.

DECREES ON RETURNEES

Here are the main points of the decree issued on June 11th dealing with persons who had fled the Republic but have decided to return:

"All persons who fled the Republic, who return to the German Democratic Republic and the Democratic Sector of Berlin will have restored to them the property confiscated under the decree of July 17th, 1952. If in individual cases the return of this property is impossible, compensation is to be given.

"Peasants who return to their holdings ... will be helped to work their holdings by the grant of credits and agricultural goods.

"All other returnees are, in a similar manner, to be reintegrated in the economic and social life in accordance with their qualifications. The fact of their flight from the Republic, alone, may not put them at any disadvantage.

"Returnees are to receive full civil rights. They will be issued with identity cards, the ration cards to which they are entitled, etc."

Here are the main points of the decree issued on June 11th dealing with peasant holdings:

"Agricultural holdings ... which were placed under the administration of the local authorities under the Decree of February 19th 1953 will be handed back to their owners ...

"Holdings which are in state administration before their return are to be handed back to their former owner complete with the inventory as it was at the time when the holding was left.

"If the return of a holding ... at present administered by an agricultural production cooperative, would entail serious difficulties for the existence of the cooperative, then the owner is to be given an equivalent holding.

"The Ministry of Justice is instructed to review the court sentences passed on peasants."

PENSION FOR MURDERER'S WIDOW

The authorities in Luebeck, British Zone, have decided to grant the pension for a general's widow to Frau Lina Heydrich, the widow of SS General Reinhard Heydrich, who was executed by Czechoslovak patriots on June 5th 1942. The pension was granted in view of Heydrich's "services to the state".

Heydrich was head of the nazi Security Police, and was directly responsible for the policy of extermination directed against Jews and Slavs.

At the notorious "Wannsee Conference" in Berlin on January 20th 1942, the conference at which the physical extermination of the Jews was officially laid down as Hitlerite policy, Heydrich stated:

"The Jews are brought to these areas (in the Eastern occupied territories) and employed in road building, in which task a large part will fall out through natural dimunition. The remnant that is able finally to survive all this ... must be given treatment accordingly."

(Minutes of Wannsee Conference, quoted in "Trials of War Criminals", Washington, Government Printing Office 1951-2, Case XI, transcript 28 526.)

The Munich liberal newspaper "Sueddeutsche Zeitung" commented on June 5th:

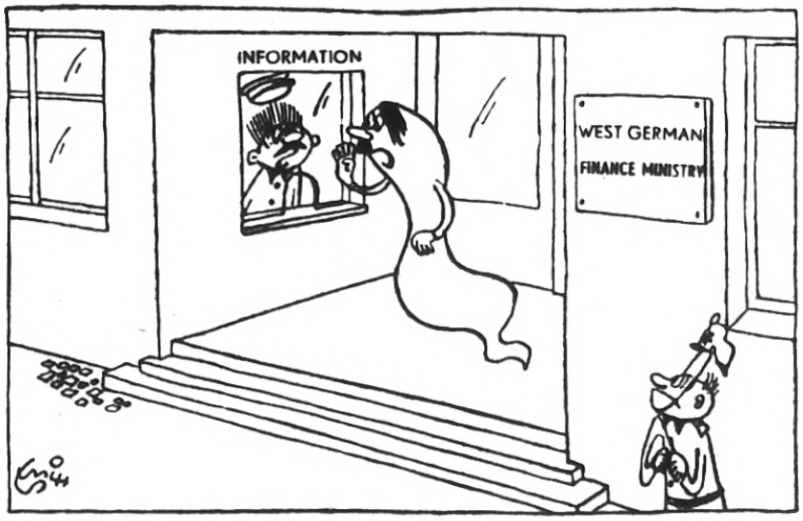
"If Adolf Hitler, our one-time Fuehrer and Reich Chancellor had not been so premature with his suicidal revolver shot, then it would obviously only be a matter of weeks before the (West German) Federal Republic granted him his chancellor's pension as a sign of appreciation for his 'untiring work for the Greater German Reich'. The pension would naturally be back-dated to May 8th 1945, and would be increased by a 40 % cost of living allotment, for we live in a civilised state.

"These bitter reflections arise from the news that the authorities in Luebeck have granted the widow of SS General Reinhard Heydrich a widow's pension back-dated to December 1st 1950.

"The man who staged the "night of broken glass" on November 8th 1938, and who was charged by Hitler in July 1941 with the frightful 'final solution of the Jewish problem'; and who then besmirched Germany as the 'Hangman of Prague' has thus been rehabilitated.

"The widows of millions of simple soldiers, the hundreds of thousands of war cripples of Hitler's war get, if they are lucky, a few miserable marks as pension. They are the living and suffering contrast to such idiotic 'justice'.

"Revenge on members of the family is naturally unpleasant, but anyone who married someone like Heydrich must have known what they were doing."



"Heil Hitler. Where do I apply for my pension?"

Foundry Workers Oppose Wehrmacht

The British Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers passed a resolution strongly opposing the formation of a new Wehrmacht in West Germany, at the annual conference held in Scarborough on May 28th.

Speaking on the resolution, delegate J. Kelly from Yeovil asked: "Why are we rearming these people? I carry round with me bones taken from the furnaces of Auschwitz concentration camp to remind me what the nazis are capable of."

* * *

The American, British and French troops in West Germany still occupy 74,204 requisitioned civilian dwellings, with a total of 374,500 living rooms, official statistics published in Bonn show. In the American Zone alone 206,800 living rooms are still occupied by American soldiers.

"NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE": JUNE 8th 1953

Bonn Politician Wants Sudetenland, Danzig

By Gaston Coblentz

Bonn, June 7 — The issue of the future borders of a reunited Germany was raised in its most explosive form this weekend by Waldemar Kraft, head of the All-German Bloc, a party that represents many of the 8,000,000 expellees from Germany's lost territories in the East.

Mr Kraft, an increasingly important politician in Bonn, said that the question of German frontiers was becoming more and more acute in view of possible East-West talks on the German problem. He declared that the restoration of the pre-war Reich's boundaries of 1937 would not be enough.

The 1937 borders — that is, Germany's frontiers before Hitler began his conquests — would be no real solution Mr Kraft said ...

This "foolish" type of talk, he said, means writing off German claims to the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia, as well as to a large portion of Poland. It also means writing off German claims to Danzig ... and Memel ...

He said that the proper formula was to demand reunification "along with those territories that rightfully belong to us."

McCarthyism Follows Pattern of Nazi Book-Burnings

By David Platt

This month is the 20th anniversary of the book-burnings in nazi Germany. In May, 1933, the nazis threw into the flames the priceless treasures of world culture.

Into the bonfires went hundreds of thousands of books that in their judgement "threaten the very roots of German thought, the German family, marriage, love, customs."

The Hitler fascists burned the books not only of such giant thinkers as Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, but also the works of outstanding humanists like Emile Zola, Thomas and Heinrich Mann, Arnold and Stefan Zweig, Jakob Wassermann, Ernst Toller, Bertolt Brecht.

The books of a number of American authors — Jack London, Upton Sinclair, Theodore Dreiser to name a few — were also consigned to the flames.

The nazis, having conquered Germany a few weeks before, made elaborate preparations for this great 'cultural' event.

They worked up to book-burning spectacles with loyalty oaths tests, inquisitions and inquests leading to the ousting of thousands of teachers from the schools in the name of "preserving academic peace".

Those were the days of the blacklist, political prisons, crematoriums for people who could not pass the tests of the 'Un-German' Committees.

Those were the days when "friendly witnesses" by the carload debased themselves before the German McCarthyites and declared under oath that they were not Communists, nor Jews, nor unionists, nor in any way opposed to fascism.

Twenty years later in the United States, the inheritors of Hitlerism — the McCarthyites — are again trying to pave the road to human slaughter with thought control and book bannings. A short while after the annihilation of the nazi dream to enslave mankind, the U. S. disciples of Hitler are encouraging youngsters in our country to burn books instead of reading them.

(From the "Daily Worker", New York, May 12th 1953)

New Commander for Soviet Troops

Colonel General Andrei Antonovich Grechko has been appointed Commander in Chief of the Soviet troops in Germany, it was announced in Moscow on June 5th.

General Vassily Ivanovich Chuikov, his predecessor, has been transferred to another post, the announcement stated.

For Them This Year is 1955

The youth brigade of ore miners, led by Horst Wuerfel has planned its work so well that it completed its planned work for the whole Five Year Plan by May 25th this year.

If they had stuck to old work organisation and methods they would not have finished until the end of 1955.

Steel Workers Write to Churchill

Workers in the great "East Steel Combinat" in East Germany have written to Sir Winston Churchill, British Premier, urging him to continue his efforts to bring about a Four Power Conference.

"We urge you to devote all your efforts toward such a conference, which would also deal with the problem of the unity of our homeland, and the conclusion of a peace treaty on the basis of the Potsdam Agreement" the letter stated.

Premiere for 200-year-old Opera

An opera written more than 200 years ago by German-born composer Georg Friedrich Haendel was performed for the first time in Germany at a Haendel Festival held in Halle, East Germany, at the beginning of June.

The opera "Diedamia" was written in 1741, and records show that it was performed three times in England in that year, but has never been staged since.

Musical critics warmly greeted the opera, which they found worthy of being incorporated in the regular programmes of modern opera houses.

Nursery School for Cokery

The factory collective agreement concluded this year by the workers of the "Rakosi" Coking Plant at Lauchhammer, East Germany, provides for the building of a new nursery school, a creche, and a central laundry at a cost of over one million marks.

New Catholic Bishop Installed

Monsignore Dr Josef Freussberg was ceremonially installed as Roman Catholic Suffragan Bishop of Fulda, with his seat at Erfurt, in East Germany, on June 11th.

The ceremony, which was attended by representatives of the Provincial Government and of the municipality, took place in the historic Erfurt Cathedral.

Films Help to Improve Quality

Slow motion films and microscopic photographs of artifical silk threads are being used by the technicians of the Elsterberg nationally owned thread works in order to improve production and increase quality. Savings of 44,000 marks in production costs were attained in 1952 through the thorough discussion of faults detected through the use of films.

Thousands Qualify themselves

More than one thousand of the workers of the West Iron Works in Calbe are attending one of the technical courses offered by the factory school, in which they can improve their skills and train as crane drivers, mechanics, norm fixers and many other trades. An increasingly high proportion of the students at these courses are women workers.

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BOOK REVIEW

THE FINAL SOLUTION

A Study In Genocide

We all of us know that the nazis killed millions of people during the Second World War, soldiers at the front, civilians in the hinterland, and prisoners in concentration camps.

We have become perhaps accustomed to the astronomical figures on the one hand, and most of us have read one or more of the personal accounts of those who survived Hitler's camps.

But the millions are too big, and accounts of personal suffering are too limited, for us to picture the planning and the policy behind the nazi extermination of the Jews and Gypsies, and their plans for the extermination or enslavement of all "undermen."

Now, in a well-documented book of 600 pages, a British archeologist has worked through and collated the immense mass of material available, and has produced the first serious full-length study of the course of the greatest massacre in history.

The book is "The Final Solution" by Gerald Reitlinger, and it has just been published by Valentine Mitchell, London, at a price of 30/-.

The subject of the book is simple enough, and is summed up in the sub-title "The Attempt to Exterminate the Jews of Europe, 1939—1945".

Wisely Mr Reitlinger has confined himself to this task, and has resisted the temptation to deal with any other subject. Carefully and precisely, drawing extensively on captured German documents and the hundreds of volumes of transcript of various war crimes trials, he reconstructs the development of the murder programme.

There were killings of Jews and pogroms from the very first day of Hitler's rule in Germany, and these increased to the scale of mass murder with the outbreak of war in 1939. But Mr Reitlinger shows clearly that all these things were only the timid beginnings for what was to follow.

The real organised programme of extermination, in fact, did not get properly under way until the nazi troops marched into the Soviet Union in June 1941. That was the signal for the whole frightful apparatus of gas-chambers and crematoria to go into operation.

Why is it necessary to recall all these frightful crimes today?

Mr Reitlinger himself gives the answer:

"In four short months of 1941 Himmler, Heydrich, Mueller and the experts of the Gestapo carried out one of the most terrible deeds in the history of man. The murder of about 350,000 Jews in such a space of time was surpassed in Poland and at Auschwitz in the summers of 1942 and 1944, but not the naked savagery of the methods.

"It was made possible by the conquests of the Wehrmacht, whose chiefs, many of them free men today anxiously anticipating employment in a European army, stood by and watched this happen. Their attitude was, as it always will be, that of a strictly professional military caste. They left the unclean thing alone as something outside their professional duties, for which they had no time, and they passively allowed their subordinates to take orders from a handful of beings, whom they regarded as beneath the rank of soldiers."

One of the most useful features of Mr Reitlinger's book is the listing of the criminals mainly responsible for carrying out the extermination programme, with notes on what has become of them. A shockingly large number are not only free, but are working quite openly again in official positions in West Germany.

("Spilki", Warsaw)

"Krupp's are back in peace production, I see"

Let us take a look at the case of Hinrich Lohse, for instance. He was "Reichskommissar for Occupied Eastern Territory."

"In Kovno on July 27th 1941, Lohse delivered an address to his staff ... He told his men that the ghettoes would only receive as much food as the rest of the population could do without; that, though the regulations of the Rosenberg Ministry were published in a 'Brown Folder' they were only meant to be applied 'when further measures towards the final solution of the Jewish problem were not practicable' and that they would not interfere with his own oral instructions to the Security police. These instructions were fulfilled so much in the spirit that Lohse's officials were known in Kovno ... as "The Headhunters' ...

"The sentence of 10 years hard labour, passed on Lohse by the Bielefeld Denazification Court in January 1948, was in fact remitted in the autumn of 1951 on the grounds of ill-health. On October 10th 1951 it was disclosed that this man, who had discussed the plans for the first gas chambers in October 1941, was drawing a pension of 263 marks a month from the (West German) Ministry for Interior."

for Interior."

And the Lohse case is only one of many. A number of those who can be proved to have taken part in the extermination programme have never been brought before a court at all, and some of them work for the West German Government.

Since this book will obviously become a standard work on the subject, it is a pity that the proof reading was not more meticulously done, and many German and Polish names and words are mis-spelt. Some of the political judgements, too, cannot be accepted.

But despite these and other flaws the book can be whole-heartedly recommended to all readers of GERMAN REPORT. It is rather expensive, but you should make sure that your local library has it.

For anyone who wants to know what sort of barrack-mates he is likely to have in an "integrated European Army", this is the book.

The Editor

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

"How to Make Enemies and Influence People — Against You" might well be the title of one of the most tasteless and silly articles about East Germany which I have ever read in the western press — and an article has to be very bad indeed to be that bad.

It probably would not be worth devoting any time to it at all, if it were not for the fact that it had been printed in the "Readers Digest", the American magazine which claims to have the largest circulation in the world. I saw the story, entitled "Caviar for the Comrades" by Joseph Wechsberg in the European edition for June 1953.

The article, which purports to describe a trip to the Leipzig Trade Fair in East Germany in March 1951, begins with the classic sentence: "American reporters are not exactly welcome behind the Iron Curtain".

Not Welcome

In seven pages of snobbish travelogue, Mr Wechsberg then makes quite plain some of the reasons why many American journalists are not exactly welcome almost anywhere. According to his own account, he and his three American journalist companions devoted the two or three days which they spent in Leipzig to:

travelling by a route not covered by their visas;
not going to the trade fair for which they had received visas;
distributing bribes to all sorts of people, including policemen;
dealing on the black market;
ordering about their landlady in a properly "colonial" fashion;
and making provocative propaganda remarks in shops and restaurants.

To cap it all, they went to the Soviet pavilion at the trade fair, and screamed with laughter at a statue of Stalin. "As we ran out we heard his (Alsop's) hollow laughter reverberated by the walls of the large mausoleum".

Just one question Mr Wechsberg. Would you regard it as good manners if a bunch of foreigners, visiting the United States, stood snickering and guffawing before a picture of Franklin D. Roosevelt?

Many years ago Joseph Wechsberg wrote a very funny story about how he and some friends pushed a piano overboard from a ship in the Red Sea. It is a pity that he was not still playing it as it splashed amongst the sharks.

* * *

I thought I was prepared for anything in the newspapers of the western world, but the reporters and editors continue to trump their own aces in the production of fine new yarns from and about East Germany.

A COLONEL FAWNS

Here is the full text of a news message circulated by the British newsagency Reuter, and printed in the "Times", London, on Monday June 8th, 1953.

"Brunswick, June 7 — Colonel Geoffrey Fawns, British Resident Officer in Brunswick, on Friday night addressed a gathering here of former Waffen-SS soldiers, who gave him warm applause. It was understood to have been the first time that a British officer had made a speech to former members of the Waffen-SS.

"Colonel Fawns, who was addressing a meeting of the welfire organisation of former Waffen-SS men, explained why Britain had to keep out of a European political federation, the European army, and similar projects. — Reuter."

Six and one half years earlier, on September 30th, 1946, at Nuremberg, the summing up of the International Military Tribunal was read by the four judges; Lord Justice Lawrence, Great Britain; Mr Francis Biddle, U. S. A.; Major General Nikichenko, Soviet Union; and Professor Donnedieu de Vabre, France.

The summing up stated:

"The SS was utilised for purposes which were criminal under the Charter, involving the persecution and extermination of the Jews, brutalities and killings in concentration camps, excesses in the administration of occupied territories, the administration of the slave labour programme, and the mistreatment and murder of prisoners of war . . .

"In dealing with the SS the Tribunal includes all persons who had been officially accepted as members of the SS, including the members of the Allgemeine SS, of the Waffen SS . . ."

This week I am presenting a special award, the "Schmoolitzer Prize", to the Reuters Correspondent in Berlin who, on May 29th, sent the following phoney over his teleprinter line to London:

"A record number of East Germans fled to West Berlin in the past 24 hours, most of them driven by hunger. Refugee officials here, announcing this today, said that 'many of them first asked for bread and then for registration as political refugees'."

Now the facts of the matter are this. Bread has not been rationed in East Germany and buy a big three pound loaf of bread for 78 pfennigs. A similar loaf of the same weight and quality costs 88 West Pfennigs in West Berlin.

Wages are, on the average, rather higher in East Germany, mark for mark, so that by any standard bread is easier to buy here than over there.

So somebody must have been telling awful lies in concocting that tear jerker. And the "Manchester Guardian", which was once a good newspaper, actually printed this idiotic story in its issue of May 30th.

Cross Examined

While we are on the subject of newspaper phoneys, I might mention that the American official newspaper "Neue Zeitung" on June 4th reported quite solemnly that the "Central Party Control Commission of the Socialist Unity Party has cross-examined John Peet repeatedly in the past few days. Peet is suspected of maintaining links with the West".

This was news to me, since the only thing like a cross examination I can recall lately are the questions a traffic cop asked me three days ago when he fined me for driving too fast down the Unter den Linden Avenue.

But I must, of course, plead guilty to maintaining links with the West, through the hundreds of letters which come into and go out of the offices of GERMAN REPORT every month. The letters come from all parts of the world, mainly of course from English-speaking countries, and they are "links with the West" which may annoy the American-run "Neue Zeitung". They annoy nobody here.

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